

white substance referred to and noticed at once after tasting it that it had a distinctly sweet taste and flavour of sugar and it was not till I was in Dehra-Dun, India, during the last war against the Japs, many years afterwards, that I touched on the subject in a letter to Father Caius who was an editor of the *Journal* and from whom unfortunately I never received any reply on the subject of the Hunters' Sugar tree.

It was only the other day that my brother-in-law, Mr. R. M. Aldworth informed me that he had come across a similar bush in the jungle sometime ago covered with the same snow-white feathery substance which I had seen and which he took to be the 'larvae' of some insect or moth which may probably be the correct solution.

He did not, he informed me, taste this white feathery substance but got a Shan villager who was on the spot to do so for him and who said that it was very sweet.

There was one other thing that one of my hunters showed me about this time which also rather astonished me. He picked up a piece of smooth green-coloured creeper a little thicker than an ordinary lead pencil and after cutting off a portion of it, about ten inches in length, dropped it into a small stream that was flowing alongside us at the time. The cut portion that had been dropped into the water then started to swim off as if it were a live snake. This was referred to by Burmans as the 'Nwe-Shin' or live creeper.

TAUNGGYI,
S.S.S.,
BURMA,
November 25, 1953.

W. S. THOM,
Retired Imperial Police.

[The sugary secretion is usually associated with certain Coccids (scale insects) and allied families of the Hemiptera; the young stages, which are flat, secrete both the sugary substance as well as wax which covers the entire body and is sometimes produced into hair-like prominences.—EDS.]

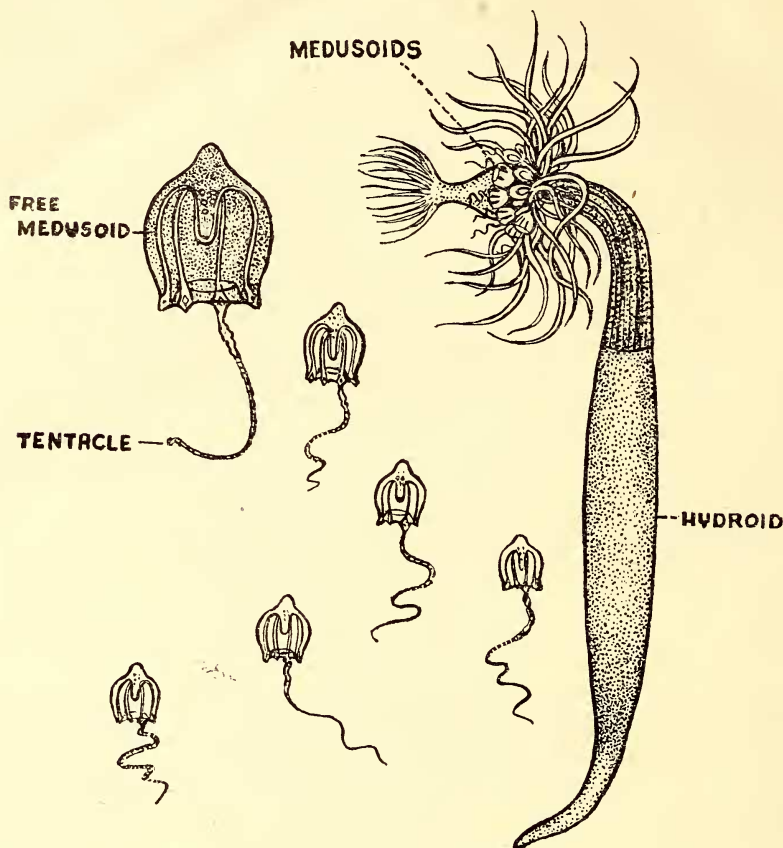
24. OCCURRENCE OF CORYMORPHA (*HYDROZOA*) IN INDIAN WATERS

(*With a text figure*)

In August 1953, an outing by the author to the shore at Colaba for the collection of specimens for the Taraporevala Aquarium, yielded a number of beautiful solitary hydroids in a bed consisting of both a sandy and muddy layer. The specimens were brought to the aquarium and were kept in exhibition tanks with proper aeration. Some of these specimens were preserved in 4% formalin for later study. The hydroids were identified as a new undescribed species of *Corymorpha*.

Reference was made to the Zoological Survey of India for literature and for information on the distribution of genus *Corymorpha* in Indian waters. The inquiry shows that *Corymorpha* had not been previously recorded in any part of India and that its discovery in Bombay was significant.

Corymorpha is solitary in habit and grows to nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length. It carries two clusters of tentacles, the lower set being thicker,



CORYMORPHA SP. (DIAGRAMMATIC)

while the upper set encircling the mouth has the fineness of threads. Lying at the base of the thicker tentacles is a ring of branching gonophores with medusae in different stages of development. These medusae had detached themselves from the parents and were moving freely. The body of the animal is slender and bulbous below and has a root-like structure with which it embeds itself in the sand.

Four days after the introduction of the Corymorpha in the tank, tiny medusae were extruded by the parents and were seen swimming in the tank. The medusae resemble roughly the shape of a lantern, with a typical cone, surmounting the dome. It had but one tentacle, beaded in appearance owing to the presence of nematocysts.

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